

STATE SENATOR • DEBORAH CHERRY • 26TH DISTRICT

Cherry Press Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 27, 2003

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CHERRY CELL PHONES IN SCHOOLS BILL WINS SENATE APPROVAL

(LANSING)---Michigan schools could set their own cell phone policies for students under State Senator Deb Cherry's bill which won Senate approval today. The bill is Cherry's first to be taken up on the Senate floor, and also the first Democratic sponsored bill to pass the Senate this year.

"The state ban on pocket pagers, cell phone, and other electronic communications devices was put in place when pagers and cell phones were fairly new and, in many cases, were being used for drug sales," said Cherry. "That has changed and these devices are now used by many parents to keep track of their children throughout the day and after school. It is time for state law to catch up with the times."

Senate Bill 294 would let school districts determine what policy on pagers, cell phones, and other devices is appropriate for their community. The current state ban would remain in effect for one year to give districts time to formulate their policy.

Cherry's bill has bi-partisan support and is co-sponsored by the Republican Chairman of the Senate Education Committee.

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“I believe that our school officials can formulate responsible policies, and that our students will understand the need to use these devices properly during the school day,” said Cherry. “In recent years we have all seen how cell phones have been used during emergencies and in times of crisis. It is time that we let our schools write policies so that when a student needs to use a cell phone, or pager, he or she can.”

Senate Bill 294 will next be considered in committee in the state House of Representatives.

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